

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Brian Schweitzer
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STATE OF MONTANA

www.dphhs.mt.gov

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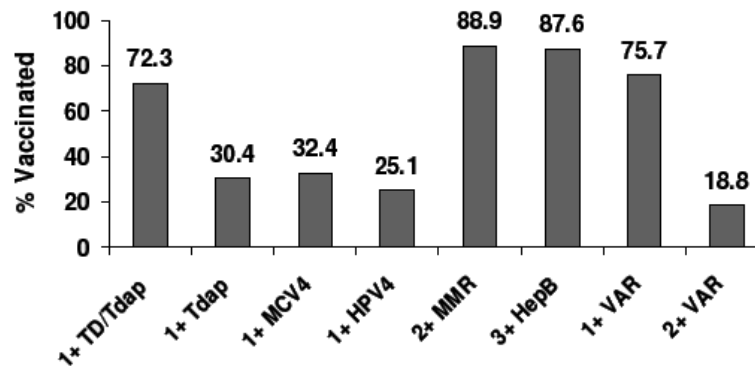
Dear Principal:

Many thanks for ensuring students attending your school are appropriately immunized. Vaccine preventable diseases are only held at bay by high immunization rates. Students 11-12 years of age are to receive immunization against Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap), meningococcal invasive disease, and for females, protection against the virus causing cervical cancer. Some adolescents need "catch-up" vaccines they should have received at an earlier age.

I am requesting your assistance in delivering adolescent immunization information. Although, adolescent immunization has now been recommended for nearly a decade, many adolescents are not receiving recommended vaccines. One reason for lack of adolescent immunization is parental and adolescent unawareness.

The desired immunization rate for all vaccines for persons 13-17 years is 90%. As you can see in the following table, the rate was not achieved in the most recent national survey.

Estimated vaccination coverage* among adolescents 13-17 years of age, NIS-Teen, 2007



*Varicella coverage is among teens without a reported history of disease. Td/Tdap is since age 10 years
HPV vaccination is among females only

Vaccine



Included with this letter are brochures and fact sheets for each child in your school's 7th and 8th grades. I hope you will send them home with each 7th and 8th grade student. If you have questions please address them to jgedrose@mt.gov or phone at 406 444 5580.

Sincerely,

Lisa Underwood, Immunization Section Supervisor